



County of San Diego

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

JOHN L. SNYDER
DIRECTOR

5555 OVERLAND AVE, SUITE 2188
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92123-1295
(858) 694-2212 FAX: (858) 268-0461
Web Site: sdcdpw.org

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

September 8, 2006

Project Name: Black Canyon Bridge Replacement Project

Project Number(s): 2C4002

This Document is Considered Draft Until it is Adopted by the Appropriate County of San Diego Decision-Making Body.

This Mitigated Negative Declaration is comprised of this form along with the Environmental Initial Study that includes the following:

- a. Initial Study Form and attached extended studies for the Black Canyon Bridge Replacement Project.
1. California Environmental Quality Act Mitigated Negative Declaration Findings:

Find, that this Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the decision-making body's independent judgment and analysis, and; that the decision-making body has reviewed and considered the information contained in this Mitigated Negative Declaration and the comments received during the public review period, and; on the basis of the whole record before the decision-making body (including this Mitigated Negative Declaration) that there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment.
2. Required Mitigation Measures:

Refer to the attached Environmental Initial Study for the rationale for requiring the following measures:

Wetlands

The Santa Ysabel River and associated riparian vegetation would fall under the jurisdiction of one or more of the following resource agencies: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The proposed project would result in impacts to 0.064 hectare (0.155 acre) of resources under jurisdiction of the USACE/RWQCB and 0.22 hectare (0.541 acre) of resources under the jurisdiction of the CDFG (CDFG jurisdiction includes the 0.064 hectare [0.155 acre] of USACE/RWQCB jurisdiction). As such, the project will require a Section 404 permit from USACE and a 401 certificate from the RWQCB in accordance with the Clean Water Act. A 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement from the CDFG will also be required.

Mitigation for project impacts to jurisdictional resources is proposed to consist of on-site revegetation at a 1:1 ratio for temporary impacts and off-site restoration/enhancement of riparian habitat/wetlands at a ratio of 5:1 for permanent impacts. A Conceptual Mitigation Plan has been prepared which details the proposed on-site mitigation within the PIA and is provided as Appendix C to the Natural Environment Study (NES). This plan shall be approved by the County of San Diego, the California Department of Transportation, CDFG, USACE, RWQCB, and the U.S. Forest Service; and implemented after construction is complete. The plan analyzes permanent and temporary impacts to jurisdictional areas and determines mitigation ratios and monitoring guidelines.

Other Sensitive Habitats

The proposed project will impact the following sensitive vegetation communities: coast live oak riparian forest (0.158 hectare [0.39 acre]), coast live oak woodland (0.028 hectare [0.07 acre]), and coastal sage scrub (0.227 hectare [0.56 acre]).

Impacts to habitats will be mitigated at the following ratios:

- 1:1 for temporary impacts and 3:1 for permanent impacts to coast live oak woodland;
- 1:1 for temporary impacts and 2:1 for permanent impacts to coastal sage scrub.

All temporary impacts will be mitigated through on-site habitat restoration/revegetation at a ratio of 1:1. Permanent impacts to coast live oak woodland will be mitigated by off-site restoration/enhancement of habitat at an approved Mitigation Site. Permanent impacts to coastal sage scrub will be mitigated through the deduction of credits from the County's Boden Canyon mitigation bank.

3. Critical Project Design Elements That Must Become Conditions of Approval:

The following project design elements were either proposed in the project application or the result of compliance with specific environmental laws and regulations and were essential in reaching the conclusions within the attached Environmental Initial Study. While the following are not technically mitigation measures, their implementation must be assured to avoid potentially significant environmental effects.

- Vegetation clearing shall occur outside the migratory bird/raptor breeding season (defined as February 15 – August 31).
- Pre construction sweeps (clearance surveys) will be conducted of the work area within 24 hours prior to the start of construction. Protocol level surveys will be completed by a permitted biologist to ensure no nesting least Bell's vireo, gnatcatcher, or southwestern willow flycatcher located on or immediately adjacent to the site. If documented in the project area, then measures to reduce noise levels to below ambient noise levels will be implemented.
- An authorized biologist shall conspicuously stake, flag, or mark all work area boundaries in potential habitat (including access paths) to minimize surface disturbance to the surrounding lands.
- Pre-construction surveys conducted by a qualified biologist will be conducted to confirm the absence of bats within the project vicinity.
- All vegetated areas/habitat outside of the project footprint will be delineated by the County as ESAs. People and construction equipment will be prohibited from entering these locations. A biologist will monitor construction to ensure ESAs are avoided.
- The new bridge shall have metal tube railings, painted light grey, to match the pipe railings on the adjacent historic bridge.
- During the rehabilitation of the historic bridge, a containment system consisting of tarps will be placed on the ground to capture any falling debris. The tarp and all accumulated debris from the creek bottom will be removed at the end of each work day.

ADOPTION STATEMENT: This Mitigated Negative Declaration was adopted and above California Environmental Quality Act findings made by the:

_____ (Decision-Making Body)

on _____ (Date/Item #)

Wendy S. Orth, Environmental Planner
Department of Public Works